(a) the categories of employees covered under the ESI Health Scheme and the contribution deducted from the employees, category-wise during the last five years;

(b) whether Government have formulated any new plan to improve the general and sanitary conditions in the ESI dispensaries and increase in various services offered to patients;

(c) if so, the full details thereof; and

(d) the details of the ESI dispensaries located in North-Eastern Region, Citywise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The ESI Act, 1948 is applicable to non-seasonal factories using power and employing 10 or more persons and non-power using factories and certain other establishment employing 20 or more persons. The employees drawing wages up to Rs. 6500/- per month only are coverable under the Act. During 1993-94 to 31.12.1996 the rate of contribution recovered from the employees was 1.50% of the monthly wage. The rate of contribution from 1,1.97 onward has been fixed at 1.75% of the monthly wage.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The ESIC has formulated an Action Plan so as to provide facilities of ultrasonograph, Cardiac monitor, auto analyser, resuscitation equipments, pulse-oxymctcr, dental and blood bank units etc. in all the ESI hospitals'. The Corporation has also decided to provide basic equipments to each ESI dispensary as one time measure.

(d) The requisite information is given in the Statement.

Statement

SI. No.	Name of the Dispensaries
ASSAM STATE	
	Guwahati
1.	ESI Disp.
2.	Ujanbajar
3.	-do- Nonnmati
4.	-do- Chandrapur -
5.	do- Narangi
6.	-do- Dispur
7.	-do- Jalkubari
8.	-do- Amingaon -
9.	do- Lokhra
11.	*Silghat*
10.	ESI Disp. Silghat
III.	*Charduar*
11.	ESI Disp. Charduar
12.	-do- Tejpur
IV.	*Nowgaon*
13.	ESI Disp. Nowgaon
14.	-do- Jagiroad
V.	*Dhubri*
15.	ESI Disp. Dhubri
16.	-do- Jogighop .
17.	-do- Bobgaigaon
VI	*Tinsukia*
18.	ESI Disp. Tinsukia
19.	-do- Makum
20.	-do- Margharita
21.	-do- Addl. Tinsukia
22.	-do- Ledo
VII	*Dibrugarh*
23.	ESI Disp. Dibrugarh
24.	-do- Joypur
VIII	*Jorhat*
25.	ESI Disp. Jorhat
26.	-do- Mariani
MEGHALAYA STATE	
1.	ESI Disp. Shillong.

Awareness against child labour

1619. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether some campaign known as 'Mukti Caravan' has been launched in Bihar to create awareness against child labour in the State by the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude in the recent past;

(b) if so, the' details there of with objectives achieved;

(c) whether Government propose to ask the South Asian Coaptation on Child Servitude to launch similar campaigns in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh where abuse of child labour is maximum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) According to information received from the State Government of Bihar a representative of an organisation (Bachpan Bachao Andolan) has informed that "Mukti Caravan" is being launched from 14th November, 1998 in Bihar. The objectives as per information given by the organisation include, inter-alia, (i) generating awareness among the people for elimination of child labour in hazardous occupations.

(ii) to appeal vide the campaign that employers of child labour should give employment to an adult member of the family of the child labourer so released;

(iii) getting child labourers released by taking direct action at different places and initiating prosecution against offending employers;

(iv) arranging transit rehabilitation for working children during the campaign etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Awareness generation programme has already been launched by the Government and funds have been sanctioned in the child labour endemic states for this purpose. National Child Labour Projects have been started in 76 districts of the country.

Non-payment of wages to workers of patriot and link newsmagazine

1620. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that workers of United India periodicals (P) Ltd., proprietors of Patriot Newspaper and Link Newsmagazine, have not been getting wages/salaries, although a lock-out imposed in June, 1996 has been lifted on April 30, 1997;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to ensure that the workers get their wages/salaries regularly; and

(c) if no action has been taken, what action Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) As per information received from National Capital Territory of Delhi, inspite of efforts by Labour Commissioner's office, the payment of wages to the employees was not made and the management of M/s. United Periodicals Pvt. Ltd., has been prosecuted on several occasions under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The employees were also advised to file their dispute of non-payment of wages before the competent Authority.

Statutory linkage of minimum wages with price index

1621. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in several States/industries minimum wages are not linked with consumer price index numbers;

(b) if so, the details of such States and' industries where such linkage has been established;

(c) whether Government are considering the proposal to statutory linkage of minimum wages With price index;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be enacted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?